AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

The attached replacement drawing sheets,which includes Fig. 1-3, replace the original sheets including Fig. 1-3.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings

Examiner objects to the drawings due to copy marking which makes them difficult to read. Applicants have provided replacement drawings, which alleviate this problem. The replacement drawings contain no new matter. In addition, Examiner objects to the drawings because the reference D1 is not pictured in the figures. Applicants have amended the specification removing the reference to D1. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Specification

Examiner objects to the Abstract due to the sue of the phrases "pivot means" and "support means." Applicants have amended the Abstract to eliminate these phrases. In addition Examiner objects to the specification due to informalities and for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for an intermediate position with a second set of cutters in a position to drill a borehole with a smaller gauge as recited in claim 5. Applicants have amended the specification to correct the informalities and canceled claim 5. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification.

Claim Objections

Examiner objects to claims 1-9 due to informalities and suggests a specific correction. Applicants has changed the phrase "the cutting arm" to "the at least one cutting arm" in claims 1-4, 6, and 7. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims 1-4 and 6-9 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by British Patent 2320270 to Armell (hereafter Armell). Applicant respectfully submits that Armell does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. With respect to claim 1, Armell does not disclose wherein the support

means is arranged to transmit axial loads from the cutting arm to the bit body when the at least one cutting arm is in the radially expanded position, wherein said axial loads are transmitted from the at least one cutting arm to the bit body by an axial end surface of the bit body. The drill bit of Armell has a rectangular body portion (24) and a pair of cutting arms (14, 15) connected to the rectangular body portion by a hinge pin (28). Each cutting arm rests against a respective side surface of the rectangular body portion when the arm is radially extended, which side surface extends in axial direction. Since the side surface can only transmit axial loads by virtue of friction, the majority of the axial loads are transmitted via the hinge pin. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn and the claims formally allowed at this time.

Conclusion

Applicants have addressed each and every objection and ground for rejection. The amended claims are patentable over the cited art and Applicants request that the application be allowed. In the event the Examiner has any questions or there are any issues with respect to the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,
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